

Technical Branch
Cultural Group
Zoo Series

ZOO VETERINARY ASSISTANT

11/98 (SAC)

Summary

Under general supervision, assist veterinarian or veterinary technician in the treatment and care of zoo animals and perform zoo keeper duties within veterinary facilities.

Typical Duties

Perform animal health care duties. Involves: administering medication, taking vital signs and providing routine medical treatment, such as applying wound dressings, as directed; obtaining the necessary data for diagnosis of zoo animals; performing routine lab tests, such as fecal sample analysis, and recording results; taking blood samples and completing required paperwork to send to outside lab for analysis, sterilizing equipment and instruments and preparing materials for surgery; assisting in surgical procedures by handing instruments and materials to veterinary technician or veterinarian.

Perform zoo keeping duties, including maintaining veterinary facilities in suitable condition. Involves: feeding and preparing regular and special animal diets; checking and observing zoo animals for abnormal conditions and reporting to supervisor; cleaning cage enclosures and performing minor repairs as required; receiving, tagging and dating and storing medical equipment and supplies; maintaining appropriate inventory of medical supplies and informing supervisor on reordering.

Perform related duties as required. Involves: substituting for coworkers or supervisor, if assigned, to maintain continuity of operation during temporary absences; answering questions from the public regarding zoo operation; guiding veterinary technology or other student interns in performance of specified duties; maintaining veterinary library and performing clerical duties such as maintaining animal medical records and preparing reports using computers.

Minimum Qualifications

Training and Experience: Graduation from high school or G.E.D. and one (1) year experience in animal health care under supervision of a veterinarian or two (2) years of course work in an accredited college or university in the health or life science field (includes Pre-Vet, Wildlife Management, Zoology, Biology or Life Science) or six (6) months experience as a zoo keeper or zoo veterinary assistant; or an equivalent combination of training and experience.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills: Good knowledge of: care, feeding and handling of zoo or exotic animals. Some knowledge of: animal health care methods and procedures and effects of disease, laboratory equipment and procedures; veterinary terminology.

Ability to: maintain veterinary facilities and equipment in sanitary and aseptic manner; prepare regular and special animal diets; recognize abnormal animal behavior; learn routine veterinary procedures perform simple laboratory procedures; understand and follow oral and written instructions; establish and maintain effective working relationships with fellow employees and the general public; perform routine clerical tasks such as maintaining records and ordering supplies.

Skill in: handling zoo or exotic animals; use personal computers or network station and related software.

Physical Requirements: Must handle and restrain zoo animals; access and enter animal areas; work under all weather conditions; move heavy objects (up to 50 lbs.) such as assisting in moving large animals or bags of feed.

Special Requirements: Subject to call back, and working flexible hours, weekends, holidays and mandatory overtime, as required.

Director of Personnel

Department Head